

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph under the title **Background of the Invention** with the following amended paragraph:

-- Calcium supplementation of both beverages and food products is known in the art. Known calcium supplementation techniques employ a variety of calcium sources, insitu calcium salt formation or adjuvants to enhance dietary calcium utilization.--

Please replace the sixth paragraph under the title **Background of the Invention** with the following amended paragraph:

--Various approaches also have been tried to supplement carbonated soft drinks with calcium. U.S. Patent No. 4,551,342 is directed to a beverage with sugar and/or artificial sweeteners, an acid blend consisting of citric, malic and phosphoric acid, and a flavor of either fruit or botanical and a cation compound consisting of calcium, magnesium, and potassium. U.S. Patent No. 5,851,578 describes a formulation of a clear beverage containing soluble fiber and a soluble salt of calcium and other mineral supplements. U.S. Patent No. 5,817,351 describes the use of calcium glycerophosphate in a low pH (2.8 to 4.6) beverage without product stability problems and unpleasant flavors. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,474,793 and 5,468,506 describe the use of calcium and acid mixtures (citric acid, calcium hydroxide, and malic acid) to form soluble calcium for fortification of juice type beverages. However, most of these inventions are related to fruit juice based beverages. Either the calcium salts or the acid mixtures, sweeteners and flavors described in these inventions cannot be directly added into a beverage matrix without any modifications for a cola type of beverage. In particular, the type of acids used such as malic acid is highly incompatible to the cola taste. --